An Evaluation of the Appropriateness of Bereavement Counselling in Secondary Schools in Mumias District of Kenya

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the paper is to explore the effects of bereavement on secondary school students and how best the schools can handle the counselling process among the students in the Mumias District of Kenya. A descriptive survey research design was employed in this study. An accessible population of 49 teachers - counsellors were targeted out of which a sample of 23 participated in the study. The target population was 17200 secondary school students out of which an accessible population of 634 were students who had lost one or both parents through death participated in the study. The SPSS tool was used in the analysis. The findings show that both students and teacher-counsellors had a positive perception of the need for an appropriate environment for bereavement recovery among secondary school students. However, the perception of female students of the recovery environment was more positive than that of the male students. It was recommended that teacher and peer counsellors be trained to effectively help bereaved students to overcome grief.

Keywords: Bereavement, Schools, counselling, Social Problems, Family